

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
WEST MICHIGAN SWIM LEAGUE**

*As of September 2015*

**ARTICLE I**

- Section I. The name of this organization shall be the West Michigan Swim League (W.M.S.L.)
- Section II. The W.M.S.L. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement and progress of competition swimming.
- Section III. The purpose of the W.M.S.L. is to: Further the interest and education of children and parents, in competitive aquatic sports; and, encourage and develop good sportsmanship, individual integrity and team play.

**ARTICLE II**

- Section I. Membership in the W.M.S.L. shall consist of those teams who are in good standing with the league.
- Section II. Membership is maintained only as long as the team and the team members abide by the constitution and such rules and regulations as may be established by the majority vote of the league members.  
Each team is authorized one vote on voting matters concerning W.M.S.L. structure and organization.  
(Note: Coaches or teams who do not abide by W.M.S.L. rules will be fined \$50.00. Fees must be paid by the Championship Meet. Clubs may appeal to the executive board-- President, Secretary, and League Representatives.)
- Section III. The addition or removal of teams participating in the W.M.S.L. shall be determined by a majority vote at the Spring or Fall meeting.
- Section IV. Membership of the individual teams in the W.M.S.L. shall be determined by each individual team sponsor. An athlete may not represent two different W.M.S.L. clubs in one season.
- Section V. The following teams are participating members in W.M.S.L.: Holland, Jenison, Zeeland, Northview, Grandville, Grand Haven, Rockford, West Ottawa, Kentwood, Hudsonville,, G.R. Gators,, Ludington, Byron Center, Hamilton, Grand Rapids Novi Sad Aquatics, East Grand Rapids, Calvin, East Jordan, Wayland and Thornapple-Kellogg. (Note: Manistee, Calvin, and Muskegon are summer clubs only.)

**ARTICLE III.**

- Section I. The W.M.S.L. shall be divided into appropriate divisions of efficient size and equalized competition within each division.
- Section II. The size of each division and the number of divisions shall be determined at the Spring and Fall league Meetings by majority vote.

## **ARTICLE IV.**

- Section I. The Board of Control shall consist of the following members:
- A. President-- Schedules league meeting, presides at all meetings, call special meetings, appoint committees, determines agenda for meetings, and assume all obligations of the office.
  - B. Secretary-- Record minutes at all meetings and to provide a copy to all members, to carry on all correspondence of the council, and keep a record of attendance at the meetings.
  - C. Treasurer-- Keep record of the expenditures and receipts, shall keep a record of the bank account, and make a report of finances at meetings.
  - D. Division Representatives-- One elected representative from each division to work with the results of all mailings to the league members.
- Section II. The term of office for the Board of Control shall be:
- A. President-- Three years, office to be elected on rotation starting with 2015
  - B. Secretary-- Three years, office to be elected on rotation starting with 2016
  - C. Treasurer-- Three years, office to be elected on rotation starting with 2017
- Section III. The election of W.M.S.L. officers shall be conducted at the annual Spring meeting held the last Monday in March. Division Representatives shall be elected at the respective Spring and Fall Meetings.

## **ARTICLE V.**

- Section I. The finances of each conference final meet shall be the responsibility of the league. Each team will pay a fee of \$5.00 per swimmer on the roster, with a minimum \$50.00 fee. The team fee must be paid by the second weekend in July for the summer season and the second weekend in January for the winter season.
- Section II. The treasurer will review bi-annually the status of the W.M.S.L. financial status.

## **ARTICLE VI**

- Section I. The following items, which concern meet organization, shall be reviewed and determined at the Spring and the Fall meeting each year:
- A. Scoring and Rules-- The W.M.S.L. shall be governed by the National Federation Rule Book, unless where modified by W.M.S.L. vote. Duel meet scoring will be as follows: Individual events-- 6, 4, 3, 2, 1. Relays-- 8, 4, 2. Scoring for a four lane pool will be, 5, 3, 1; relays-- 6, 3, 1. Scoring for Tri-meets are as follows: Individual events-- 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Relays-- 6, 4, 2.
  - B. Score Sheets-- Sample score sheets will be made available upon request to the WMSL Secretary.
  - C. Awards-- Dual meet awards are the option of each team in the W.M.S.L.. If any member team opts to furnish awards, the W.M.S.L. only sanctions awards given to the members of the home team.
  - D. Age Groups-- Summer: 8&Under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-&Over (College swimmers may compete but must be exhibition). Winter: 8&Under, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. (13-14 swimmers will not score during dual meets, unless both coach agree to do so.)
  - E. Cut-Off Dates-- A swimmer's age is determined by the first date of the A Championship meet.

- F. Events and Order of Events-- See West Michigan Swim League website at [www.westmiswimleague.com](http://www.westmiswimleague.com)
- G. Officials-- Each team shall provide the most qualified and experienced officials possible for all competition. At conference meets, there must be one registered official (M.H.S.A.A.) and competent assistant.
- H. Eligibility for Conference Finals-- To be eligible for conference competition, team members must swim a qualifying time in one official dual meet during the appropriate season and/or swim in an approved qualifying meet as determined by the W.M.S.L..
- I. Conference Meet Organization--
- 1.) Scoring: See National Federation Rule Book.
  - 2.) Awards: Type of awards shall be the option of the W.M.S.L., and will be decided by a majority vote of all members.
  - 3.) Method of Conducting Conference Meet: The method of conducting the final conference meet(s), shall be determined by a majority vote of all members.
  - 4.) Results and Conference Records: The host team shall furnish a final copy of the Conference Meet, including final places and times to each team of that particular division. Also, a copy of the final results shall be forwarded to the Secretary who will maintain and up-date a complete Conference Record System each year.
  - 5.) Events: Swimmers shall be permitted to enter a maximum of three events, no more than 2 of which may be individual events.
  - 6.) Bonus Swim(s): Swimmers who post a qualifying time in just one event are required to swim all their remaining event(s) in the Conference Championships. Swimmers may enter another event if they only have one WMSL A qualifying time.
- J. Dual Meets--
- 1.) Swimmers may swim up in the dual meet season. If a swimmer swims up, he/she will compete at the new age division the entire meet.
  - 2.) Each swimmer may swim a maximum of four events, no more than two of which may be individual events.
- K. Novice Meet or B Meet-- The 12 and unders who do not make an A meet qualifying time during that season and any 14 and unders who do not make a 12 and under A meet qualifying time may swim a maximum 2 individuals and 1 relay or 2 relays and one individual.  
There will be unlimited team entries in both the A and B Meets in individual events.

## **ARTICLE VII**

- Section I. Amendments to the by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Control or the team members of the League at the Spring or the Fall meetings. All proposals must be submitted 14 days in advance of the W.M.S.L. seasonal meeting. It must be sent to all representatives no less than 10 days prior to the meeting date. Any proposal presented at the meeting not following this procedure may not be voted on at that meeting unless it would jeopardize the operation and finances of the WMSL.
- Section II. Amendments to the by-laws shall become effective immediately upon simple majority vote.